

Stylist's loved ones rally to his side

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Friends, family, clients and former colleagues of Matreal Drumgole honored their beloved friend and celebrated his life, accomplishments and professional career in a living tribute to the local hair stylist facing health challenges.

Drumgole, known for being well-liked with a gift of gab, developed severe complications from diabetes and now faces losing his vision.

Over 60 people surprised the stylist at the Corporate Catering Center at 3824 Paradise Road on Sunday afternoon.

Drumgole, a hair fashion stylist for about 20 years, established his salon career here at Simplee Raw for 13 years, Simply Flawless for two years, Salon 2000 for three years, and Grid Hairsound for three years.

Aaron Arrington, a friend, began the process of getting things together about a month ago. He and others are calling on the community and those in the trade to rally support for Drumgole, who has countless clients in town and out of town.

"We're coming together as friends and family, roasting him and doing a fundraiser to give him an uplift of his spirit. We reached out to cosmetologists, beauticians, manicurists, salon owners and others in the industry," Arrington said.

"Matreal and I met in beauty school over 20 years ago, and we remained friends during all that time. We've traveled together, experienced a lot together, and I see him not only as a friend, but also as a brother," he added.

Entertainer Lou Collins helped provide the venue for the tribute. "I have known Matreal for over 20 years. His sister and I came up together, so I've known him for a long time being a knucklehead under me. When the call came from Aaron, it was my responsibility to answer the call. If you live in Las Vegas and know the cosmetology industry, you got to know Matreal. This is a worthy event for an individual deserving of this tribute."

Drumgole was touched by the efforts.

"Well, I was kept in the dark about this thing, so I didn't know that this was going to happen, but I appre-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Supporters of fellow cosmetologist Matreal Drumgole, seated, are left to right: La Car Simone-Simplee Raw, Eleanor Barnett-Hair Unlimited Barber Shop, Tyrone Patterson-Ty's Hairtricks and Beauty Salon, Ronnie Taylor-Cafe Salon, Johnny Carter-Kapture Hair Salon, Derrick Insbrook-Onstage, Veronica Hill, Regina Alexander-Grid Hairsound, Debra Mac Lynn, Tyanisha Holding-Creative Hair Style

ciated it and thank all of my friends for doing so. I've been in Vegas all my life, graduated from Western High School, and been involved in the community. I attended Marinello Beauty College for over 11 months, and attended a fashion school for over two years that I had to quit because of my illness," he said.

Colleagues of Drumgole shared their perspectives about knowing and working with him.

Debra Macklin said, "I have known Matreal for about seven years. He's a great guy. I'm here today because I love him and all the things that he has done."

Veronica Hill stated, "I've worked with Matreal, and I have known him for over a year. I'm here to honor him and let him know that I love him. He's a quiet and talented person."

Christine Edwards, a co-worker for three years commented, "I have known him for 15 years. He's a very nice individual, and someone that you love to work with. He's kind and not one who gets involved in any kind of mess.

He has a warm personality and gets along with everyone he comes in contact with."

Kevin Brown, a longtime friend of Drumgole who provided the musical entertainment said, "We go back to high school where we hung out together before he went to hair school. I sent him a number of clients, and he sent me a number of clients as a DJ. He's been a nice, smooth and sweet person. We've attended a number of hair shows and hair wars together, and to see him create the many styles that he's done — it's incredible. We've endured a great friendship and watched each other grow up throughout the years."

The relationship between a hair stylist and his client is often regarded as a very personal relationship of trust. Drumgole's clients expressed that in their comments and he expressed his appreciation to them.

"As a hairstylist for over 20 years, I've met numbers of individuals whom I have grown to know and love," Drumgole said.

Carol Friend-Junior, a cli-

ent and friend for close to 20 years, said, "Matreal is my boy, my baby. He's a pleasant young man and has always treated me well. He's like a son to me. He's a damn good hairstylist... He's pa-

tient and has always worked well on my hair. I like that about him."

Sharon Smith said she "came out today to show my love and gratitude for my wonderful friend and brother

Matreal."

She added, "I just had to be here today because he's been such a good friend to me and made me look like a diva every time I got out of

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